

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 124 without my signature. This bill would extend the meal and rest period provisions of the California Labor Code to lifeguards and stage assistants employed by local governments.

This bill is unwarranted for two reasons. First, existing law has created confusion relative to when and how employers must provide meal periods to their employees. This confusion has resulted in countless lawsuits against employers filed under the so-called “Sue Your Boss” law, and has denied employees flexibility in determining when they will take their lunch break. Unfortunately, this bill does nothing to solve this problem but instead exacerbates it by establishing penalties for yet another group of employers.

Second, the group of employees covered by this bill are employed by public entities and covered by collective bargaining agreements. Any changes to meal period requirements for these employees should be negotiated through those agreements.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger